

Let's Talk: Day 22-One Story

Abraham & Hagar/Ishmael – Abraham Doubts God's Promises & Blesses Ishmael

Today's Reading: Genesis 16, 21:8-21; Galatians 4:21-31

Bake a treat but take it out of the oven several minutes early. Is it good? Trying to rush God's timing is like eating a half-baked treat. It's not God's plan.

Questions:

1. Sarai knew God's promise of blessing to her family but how did she try to make it happen in her timing? Was this a good idea? Explain. Did Hagar respect Sarai?
2. Where did Hagar run? What did the angel tell her to do and what promise did he give her? Hagar gives God a name. What is it? How does that name make you feel?
3. When Hagar & Ishmael are later sent away, how does God take care of them? What does this tell you about God's love?
4. For older children: Throughout the Bible, there are stories with two births. The first birth usually represents our flesh/the law/old man. The second birth is spiritual/grace/the new man through Christ. Can you apply this idea to Ishmael and Isaac?

For older children: Throughout the Bible, there are stories with two births. The first birth usually represents our flesh/the law/old man. The second birth is spiritual/grace/the new man through Christ. Can you apply this idea to Ishmael and Isaac?

Let's Talk: Day 23

Abraham & Circumcision – The Sign of Circumcision vs. Spiritual Circumcision

Today's Reading: Genesis 17; Romans 4:7-13; Colossians 2:11-13

Use your family's unique artistic abilities, to create a piece of art to put in a prominent place that reminds you of the promises God has made

to you. You can be elaborate or use a simple program like wordle (<http://www.wordle.net/>).

Questions:

1. What name changes do Abram and Sarai receive? Why do you think God gives them new names? If God gave you a new name, what would you like it to be?
2. How old will they be when they have a son? Why do you think God made them wait this long?
3. Like the rainbow, God often gives us physical reminders of promises with our invisible God. As a physical reminder of the covenant with Abraham, what does God tell all the males in Abraham's camp to do?
4. For older kids: Many of the Old Testament events are physical pictures for us of a spiritual truth. What does spiritual circumcision mean? Has your heart been circumcised?

Let's Talk: Day 24

Abraham & his Three Visitors – The LORD Visits Abraham & Sodom's Sinfulness

Today's Reading: Genesis 18; Isaiah 3:8-11; Hebrews 13:1-2

Invite someone over, (another friend or a whole family), and help your children learn to be good hosts. How can you practice hospitality and respect?

Questions:

1. Who comes to visit Abraham and what message do they bring? How does Genesis 18 coupled with Hebrews 13 make you feel? Do you think you could ever meet an angel?
2. How does Abraham show respect to these visitors?
3. Why did Sarah laugh and how did she respond when asked about it?
4. What did the LORD want to do to Sodom? How did Abraham respectfully but repeatedly ask the LORD to change His plan? How can you apply this to your own life when you want to talk to God or your parents?

Let's Talk: Day 25

Lot & Sodom – The Lord Delivers Lot & Judges the City of Sodom
Today's Reading: Genesis 19*; Luke 17:28-36; 2Peter 2:6-9

Have one family member stand on a low chair. Then try and have him pull another family member (who is resisting) up on to the chair. Now try and have the person on the floor pull the one on the chair down. Which is easier to do? How does this relate to the influences in our life: is it easier to pull someone to a higher standard or pull someone down?

Questions:

1. How did Lot greet the angels? Did the men of Sodom respect the angels? What did the angels do to them?
2. What was the message of the angels to Lot? When Lot told his family how did some of them respond? How can living among people of a bad influence affect you?
3. Do you think there are angels around us today? How might they protect us or help us?
4. Older children: How does Lot and the destruction of Sodom foreshadow the second coming of Jesus?

* CAUTION: Parents of younger children should always share the truth but may want to use discretion in explaining the specifics detailed in this chapter.

Let's Talk: Day 26

Sarah & Isaac – Sarah's Faith in God & Isaac's Promised Birth
Today's Reading: Genesis 21:1-7; Romans 9:6-9; Hebrews 11:11-16

Find some family baby books or baby videos. Enjoy the cuteness. Share favorite stories from when the kids (or you as parents) were babies. Include where you found out you were expecting and what it was like the first time you held him.

Questions:

1. What promise is fulfilled in today's reading? Look back to Genesis 12:4. How many years did Abraham and Sarah have to wait for God to fulfill His Word?
2. Unlike Ishmael who was the child of Sarah's works and manipulation, Isaac is the miraculous child of promise. Has God asked you to believe a miraculous promise that will bring Him glory? If so, what? Will you make God the priority in your life and believe it no matter what?
3. How can today's story encourage you to keep waiting and believing?
4. According to Hebrews 11, how do the faithful characters from the Bible view earth? Where is their home? Where do you consider home?

Let's Talk: Day 27

Abraham & Isaac – Abraham's Sacrifice of Isaac Foreshadows Christ's Sacrifice on the Cross

Today's Reading: Genesis 22; Romans 8:31-39; Hebrews 11:17-19

Parents ask your kids to go get their most prized possession. Then ask them if they would be willing to give it away to someone who needs it.

Questions:

1. What did God ask Abraham to do? How did Abraham respond? Isaac is probably a teenager. What do we learn about his character through this event?
2. What does this story reveal about Abraham's priorities? What does Hebrews 11 say about his faith?
3. How does God deliver Isaac? What do you think Isaac was thinking while lying on the altar?
4. How does the chapter in Genesis picture what God did for us through Jesus Christ? Can anything separate us from God's love?

Let's Talk: Day 28

Today's Reading: Weekly Day OFF

Weekly Review: Think back on this week's reading. What story stands out to you and why? As a family, pick a verse on which to meditate or memorize (suggestions: Genesis 15:1,6; Genesis 18:14; 2Peter 2:9).

Preview Family Activity: Our priorities are how we make decisions. We see what our priorities are by how we will fill our calendar and where we spend our money. Using these two criteria, discuss what your family priorities are. Do you want to make any changes?